SIR KNIGHT JOHN J. PERSHING
General of the Armies
SEPTMBER: A sketch of General and Sir Knight John J. Pershing forms the cover illustration this month. As history tells us, World War I was declared April 6, 1917; selective service conscription was adopted May 15; on the 21st of June, 1917, “Black Jack” Pershing, as Commander-in-Chief, landed in France. He is another patriot whose story is included in the new and revised Masonic Americana, offered in its 12th printing at $1.50 each. The augmented publication, released this month, will remain unaltered from the present through 1976. Revised in format and design, it includes some 64 additional pages of history of the United States of America.

Paul C. Rodenhauser, Editor

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Material for the Grand Commanderies’ two page Supplements is to be directed to the respective Supplement Editors. Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders.


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THE GRAND MASTER EXPLAINS

We have golden opportunities for progressive actions and contacts in the Grand Encampment in coming months and we want to make the very best of them. Without trying to project far in advance, I thought you would be interested in some of the official projects awaiting your Grand Master — and your Grand Officers — within the next few weeks.

In addition to several noteworthy gatherings of Grand Bodies, such as the pending Social Order of the Beauceant September 23-24, we have been represented at this point in the hospitality and friendship of the Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada and the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada during August.

In September, following the Southwestern York Rite sessions at Joplin, Missouri, the Grand Encampment and allied Grand Bodies will meet September 13-14 for the discussion and interchange of Masonic information. Later in the month, our fraternal experience will benefit by attendance at the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, at Boston — followed by the Triennial Meetings of the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council at Cleveland, Ohio.

Before we depart from Cleveland in October, your Grand Master, as current chairman, will call a meeting of the International York Rite Commission to discuss and arrange additional cooperation among the other two General Grand Bodies.

Then — to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for a preliminary meeting of Grand Officers to discuss the 1976-79 budget and other projections of Templar importance. Immediately after that session, we will join Department Commander Louis A. Beaudoin for his Northeastern Department Conference. The 10-state gathering is designed for all Knights Templar with special emphasis upon Grand Commanders and Deputy Grand Commanders. I note with interest that Past Commander Dave Perry will be an instructional speaker.

It is an active schedule. The major purpose is to adequately represent you, the individual Knight Templar, at all our meetings and convocations — and to ask you as an interested and vital link to plan progressively for next August in Kansas City, Missouri. We need your counsel and participation before, during and after the 1976 Triennial Conclave!

[Signature]

knight templar
Re: Dallas T. Dauterman’s request for a “Gold Knights Templar fob to be worn on a chain by his wife.”

Did I not say that the Social Order of Beauceant, whose members are the wives and widows of Sir Knights, is the only organization qualified and authorized to wear the “Cross and Crown” of Knights Templary?

I have no quarrel with any Knight who wishes to use the sword or any other emblem of Templary to enhance a necklace for his wife... But please keep our “Cross within the Crown”... Inviolate! Fred W. Booth P.C., Washington No. 15, 12450 S.W. Fischer Road, Tigard, Oregon 97223

My wife works with ceramics as a hobby. So far we have found plenty of ceramic decals for the Blue Lodge and Shrine, but very few for the York Rite. We are looking for the type that can be ‘fired on’ permanently. Any information as to where these may be purchased would be greatly appreciated. Carl M. Parker, 2602 Minnesota, Joplin, Missouri 64801

In one of the issues of the Knight Templar Magazine, someone had placed a small notice about a book or pamphlet on prayers for the Masonic Lodge. I have mislaid that magazine. Please could someone help me find the notice? Verne A. Nelson, 87 St. George Mews, Sonoma, California 95476

Conversion to the Metric System will require everyone to replace all box wrenches, socket wrenches, open end wrenches, taps, dies, drills, micrometers, rules and thermometers. This is great for the manufacturers of such equipment and for the publishers of handbooks, but rough on the person already owning tools and handbooks based on U.S. Standards. It was because of the great expense involved that the Labor Unions blocked passage of the Metric Bill in Congress. Chester E. Rose, P.O. Box 62, Montrose, Pennsylvania 18801

Bearing in mind the time-honored adage that 28.349527 grams of prevention are worth 0.4535924 kilograms of cure, I am preparing for Metric Masonry.

I see no difficulty in the explanation of the 60.96 centimeter gauge and common gavel. Obviously the grave due east and west and 1.8288 meters perpendicular is child’s play.

My problem is with the pillars. How many millimeters in a cubit? N. Tracy Walker, E.P.C., Trinity No. 80, 5528 C.E. Lake Drive, Lisle, Illinois 60532

P.S.: My grandchildren are really doing well with “Peter Piper picked 8.809582 liters of pickled peppers,” so I hope they don’t find out that a British peck is 9.091901 liters.

The time to sell a brother on the additional light found in the other bodies is when his enthusiasm is at its highest — as soon as he can be informed that there is much more to Masonry than the Lodge, I can also state that those active in Templary are also active in Council, in Chapter and are usually regular attenders of Lodge also. In 30 years I have known only 2 men who were active in the other bodies but avoided Lodge for specific reasons. Harry May, 13 Shadow Lane, Montvale, New Jersey 07645

The Grand Chapter of Wisconsin has issued a Commemorative Penny at the 126th Grand Convocation held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 5-6. The General Grand Chapter chartered the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin in 1850 with Kilbourn No. 1, Washington No. 2 and Kenosha No. 3 constituting the first Chapters.

A limited number of Commemorative Pennies are available to collectors at $3.00 to cover cost of mailing. All proceeds will be donated to the Royal Arch Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. Address all requests to — Robert C. Guenther, Grand Secretary, 204 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

Arthur N. McSain, Jr., 330 South 20th Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

September 1975
I am collecting all types of Masonic memorabilia and am especially interested in obtaining Lodge monitors and Chapter pennies from every state. Also, I would like to purchase a Templar Sword. Read the Knight Templar each month, keep up the good work. The Masonic Americana is the best book on our history that I have read. Bob Heffner, Commandery No. 83, 113 Coury Road, Everman, Texas 76140

I am a collector of Shrine glasses, particularly those with Syria and Host City. These pieces were souvenirs of Imperial Sessions. Would like to obtain the following or earlier dates: Syria, Nantucket Beach, Massachusetts, 1895 September; Syria, Detroit, Michigan, June 1897; Syria, Dallas, Texas, June 1898; Syria, Kansas City, Missouri, June 1901; Syria, Chicago, Illinois, June 1906. Write John E. Leckron, P.O. Box 162, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Last Sunday morning I read in our church bulletin that the Federal Communications Commission had before it a petition entitled Lansman-Millian Bill asking that all religious programs be banned from TV and radio.

There are many programs which I am sure could be so treated, but not freedom to express the Gospel of God. So many shut-ins turn to these messages for spiritual comfort and assurance. I am sure you can think of many other ways humanity can be served by the spreading of His Word.

I am writing to all the monthly publications of organizations of which I am a member, respectfully requesting that they publish an appeal, where it will readily be seen, to urge their readers to write to the F.C.C., 1919 M. Street, Washington, D.C. N.W., 20036, asking that this action be defeated. David J. Candlish, Sr., 27 Carpenter Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

I want to express my appreciation for your forwarding my name and address to the several Knights who made inquiry as to availability of copies of the poem on Brotherhood which you reprinted. I do have copies (a limited number) the same size I sent you, 4" x 6", and also a very few 7" x 11". If I may make a suggestion, you might print this information — it would certainly save time, typing and postage. L. Sherman Brooks, Box 321, R.F.D. 2, Jamestown, New York 14701

Eifel Chapter No. 6, R.A.M., and Eifel Council No. 3, R. & S.M., of Motsch, Germany, are pleased to announce that we have struck two distinctive Bijous for our Bodies and will offer them to Masonic collectors at a cost of $5.50 for the Chapter Bijou and $7.50 for the Council Bijou.

These Bijous will be struck once for re-sale and then will revert to only members of the Chapter and Council. We guarantee your satisfaction or we will refund your purchase price. If you would like to order one or both of these Bijous or request further information on them, write to David W. Campbell, PSC Box 1644, APO New York 09123.

I'd like to make a few comments regarding your fine Magazine. I find it instructive, educational and altogether pleasant reading. I cannot agree with the so-called "Arizona Plan," re: uniform revision. Being a Past Master of my Symbolic Lodge as well as having served in the officers corps of other organizations, I find that the attendance is no better where no uniform is necessary (omitting officers' dress which I do not consider as a uniform) than is attendance at Templar Conclaves. In fact, locally, Knights Templar Conclave attendance is much better than in some of the local Symbolic Lodges, due to the fact that the Templar Ladies Auxiliary meets the same evening and their chauffeurs attend their Commandery Conclave while they await their ladies. To my thinking, the poor attendance at Symbolic Lodge meetings as well as at meetings of the appendant bodies of Free-masonry has a direct bearing on why many of the newly-made members fail to return. Diemer E. Wasson, Generalissimo, Oriental Commandery No. 61, 230 Arbutus Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

I really do enjoy your good magazine and I take the time to read it "cover-to-cover" each and every month. The history and articles of topical and current interest are out of this world.

I am a schoolteacher with an M.A. in English, so you can imagine what a good "working reference" library I'd like to build.

If any Sir Knights have any Masonic books whatsoever that they would like to give away, I'd be more than happy to have them. And if I get any duplicates, I'll be happy to donate them to Corpus Christi Commandery or any Blue Lodge in my area that would like to start a library. H. C. Arbuckle, III, Corpus Christi Commandery No. 57, P.O. Box 3026, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

knight templar
Dear Sirs:

Please send us one copy of your publication, "Masonic Americana." We understand this is available for $1.00 per copy.

Enclosed is a field warrant in the amount of $1.00. Thank you for your assistance. We will look forward to receiving the book.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

(Mrs.) Beatrice Langnes
Executive Director
THESE MEN WERE MASONs

by

Estel W. Brooks

Over the years many speakers have made many false claims of Masonic memberships due to reading unconfirmed items by over-zealous authors. They did this because they took the word of men whom they thought were reliable but who had not done the necessary research to make positive identification of their claims. Until lately, when a researcher really went to work on the subject, men were alleged to be Masons through hearsay or circumstantial evidence. The time has now come to refute these claims and to rely only upon those who have made diligent research and can prove their claims. We have many of our forefathers who can be proven to be Masons without making claims on some important man who might have been. Perhaps we may overlook someone who is deserving but future investigation will bring out the truth. Records of many Lodges have been lost through neglect, wars and fire.

Now, through research, we are narrowing the claims of our forefathers who can be proven to be Masons. We must be careful because there are many people who are just waiting for us to make false claims about the patriots we claim as Brethren. As our Bicentennial period approaches, let us be especially careful in our assertions concerning those who were Masons. We might be reminded that one of General Washington’s generals, Benedict Arnold, was proven a Mason.

It has also been alleged that two of our Presidents were Masons whose membership cannot be proven through research. They are Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. We know that they were deserving men but let us not say they were Masons just because we wish they were. Jefferson is reported to have walked in a Masonic funeral procession, but in those days many important men did this without being Masons. Most researchers report these two men were not members of the Craft.

The Presidents of the United States of America that we can prove to be Masons are 14 in number and are as follows: George Washington, born in Virginia; James Monroe, also of Virginia; Andrew Jackson was born in South Carolina; James Knox Polk was born in North Carolina; James Buchanan in Pennsylvania; Andrew Johnson was born in North Carolina; James Garfield first saw the light of day in Ohio; William McKinley also was born in Ohio; Theodore Roosevelt of New York; William Howard Taft was born in Ohio; Warren G. Harding was of Ohio; Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York; Harry S. Truman from Missouri and Gerald Ford of Michigan.

Of these distinguished Presidents five were Knights Templar. They were Andrew Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Harding and Truman. Of these five, three were from Ohio.

When we start research on the men who can be proven to have been Masons we run into many problems. There are all sorts of claims concerning how many of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Some authorities in the past have claimed as many as thirty. This list has now been narrowed down to nine indisputables. They are William Ellery of Rhode Island, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, John Hancock and Robert Treat Payne of Massachusetts, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes of North Carolina, Richard Stockton of New Jersey, George Walton of Georgia and William Whipple of New Hampshire.

Some of the claims that
have been made are as follows. In 1927, William L. Boyden, librarian of the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, claimed 15 of the signers were Masons. To this list the Iowa Grand Lodge library added 13 more. In 1937 Hon. Sol Bloom, as chairman of the United States Constitutional Sesquicentennial Commission, issued a government brochure claiming that there were 31 Masonic signers. In 1954, Ray Baker Harris, who had succeeded William L. Boydon, said that of the 56 signers there was positive evidence that there were 29 members or that there was a basis for presuming they were although the evidence was circumstantial.

These statements put all Masons on the spot. Who are we to believe? Probably the best and safest thing to do is to accept the nine which can be proven members and if more can be proven at a later date accept them at that time.

We hear many claims made about those who signed the Constitution. Again we hear nearly all were Masons. The list has now been narrowed down to 13. They were General George Washington and John Blair of Virginia, Gunning Bradford, Jr., John Dickinson and Jacob Brown of Delaware, David Brearly, Jonathon Dayton and William Patterson of New Jersey, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, James McHenry and Daniel Carroll of Maryland, Rufus King of Massachusetts and Nicholas Gilman of New Hampshire.

It has been proven there were 13 Masonic signers, not definite on seven and 19 were definitely not members of the Craft.

Another statement which has been made many times is that all of General Washington’s generals were Masons. Such was not the case, however, altho 34 of them were and one of them was Benedict Arnold.

We have heard that the idea of the “Boston Tea Party” originated in a Masonic Lodge. It has also been said that the Lodge meeting couldn’t be held that night because there was not a quorum present. From the minutes of the Lodge that night, this can be disproven. Undoubtedly, some Masons did take part in the “Party.” There had to be more than one meeting to plan for such an act and also because there were men who were not Masons in the group, they could not have attended the Lodge meeting. It was not a spontaneous meeting and must have had considerable planning beforehand.

Another statement that has been made is that all Masons in the Colonies severed their ties with the British Lodges. Such, however, was not the case as all Masons at that time were not Whigs or members of the Patriots Party. Some were Tories and remained loyal to England. They were not in favor of the separation from the mother country, either as citizens or Masons. In fact, due to the intense feelings of that time, many of the Tory Masons suffered physically and financially.

Among the signers of the Declaration of Independence who suffered a great loss were Ellery of Rhode Island, Stockton of New Jersey and Walton of Georgia.

The British troops occupied William Ellery’s home in Newport for three years and then destroyed it. While inspecting the Continental Army in upper New York state, Richard Stockton heard the British had invaded New Jersey. He hurried home and moved his family to a friend’s home, Loyalists informed the British who captured him and treated him so badly that his health was impaired. He was finally exchanged and learned his home had been pillaged and partly burned. He never regained his health and died at 50. George Walton was a colonel in the militia. He was wounded and captured during the siege of Savannah in December 1778. He was held prisoner until exchanged for a navy captain in 1779.

With heroes like these and many, many more, let us not claim any others until it can be proven beyond a doubt that they were members of the Craft. We must not rely upon circumstantial evidence.

Sir Knight Brooks resides at 4755 North 54th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85031.
President Gerald R. Ford received a 33° Masonic hand-carved plaque from Sir Knight Delbert Springer, Van Wert, Ohio, in July 17 White House ceremonies. Similar plaques went to Past Department Commander Ned E. Dull and U.S. Representative Delbert Latta, 5th Ohio District. Witnessing the President Ford presentation are Mrs. Springer, Latta, Sir Knight and Mrs. Dull.

At left, Representative Latta signs a York Rite petition. Dull plans a statewide festival for a class named in Brother Latta’s honor.

Two candidates for the August 1976 office of Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment are pictured on the present page. Past Department Commander Dull and also present Department Commander Charles L. Harrison, Commonwealth of Virginia, shown below.

NEW BICENTENNIAL SERVICE FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT – AUGMENTED MASONIC AMERICANA, REVISED FORMAT – $1.50 EACH.
NEW DATES, AIMS AND PROJECTS FOR K.T.E.F.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation met at the Palmer House, Chicago, July 26-27 for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

December 1, 1975-April 30, 1976 was established as the Spirit of '76 Voluntary Campaign, with all membership reported to the Grand Encampment office in December as the basis for plaque recognition at the conclusion of the campaign.

Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, President of the Board, reappointed Charles S. McIntyre as Chairman. Sir Knight McIntyre announced tentative plans for a national "Benefactor" project, with details to be released later.

G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Executive Director, has relocated his headquarters at 509 South 6th Street, P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

New officers include President Riegle, Vice-Presidents Avery and Frizzell, Treasurer Gorman, Secretary Rodenhauser, Assistant Executive Director Joslyn, Executive Director Bell.

Next Board Meeting will be held immediately prior to the 53rd Triennial Conclave next August in Kansas City.

Last year's Campaign raised in excess of $434,000 in Commandery projects. The goal for 1975-76 is $500,000. The 1974-75 income was designated, divided almost evenly, between the Permanent and General Fund. The former includes Life Sponsorships, Associate and Patron certificates. The latter is utilized for current expense.
COMMANDERY NAMES

by  
Herbert W. Sumner, Jr.  
Grand Historian, New Jersey  
P.C., Recorder, Melita No. 13

Just as we enjoy hearing our name mentioned, so the mention of our Commandery should bring equal pleasure.

The research into the meanings of the names of the 1,577 Commanderies within the Grand Encampment led Sir Knight Sumner to a study of fable, geography, the Bible and Templary. While the following enumeration is not complete there is sufficient material to interest all Sir Knights. The second part will be presented in the October Knight Templar Magazine.

Six hundred thirty Commanderies are named for the city or town of their Asylum. The remainder fall into varied classifications. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of Commanderies with the same name.

BAYS: Chesapeake, Juan de Fuca, Narragansett and Santa Monica Bay.


EARLY FORTS: Duquesne and Fort Winnebago.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION: Asian, Bavaria, Bay Ridge, Beaver Valley, Capitol City, Casa Grande Valley, Central City, Coast, Connecticut Valley, Clinch Valley, East Lake, East St. Louis, Eastern Oregon, Far East, Foothill, Gate City, Genesee Valley, Germantown, Golden Gate, Imperial Valley, Northern, Northwestern, Ohio Valley, Okanogan Valley, Park Region, Peninsular, Piedmont, Southern California, South Shore, Southside, Valley, Vashon Island, Woodlawn and Wyoming Valley.

INDIAN TRIBES: Aztec, Brule, Miami, Mohave and Shawnee.

LAKES: Erie, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake Superior and Watauga.

MILITARY CAMPAIGN: Cerro Gordo.


OCEANS: Atlantic and Pacific.

PARKWAY: Pennyrite.


SPANISH EXPLORERS: Coronado and DeSoto (2).

STATE NICKNAMES: Bay State, Empire, Magnolia, Mountain
State, Old Colony, Old Dominion and Sunshine.


TERRITORIES: Canal Zone, Columbia, Okinawa and Puerto Rico.

Since the balance intermingles fable, the Bible, Masonry and Templary, we shall list them in alphabetical order.

Ascension (1), Ascension (4) — Christian Church festival, held forty days after Easter, in commemoration of the Ascension of our Lord.

Aldemar (1), St. Aldemar (9) — Godfrey de St. Aldemar was one of the nine French Knights who formed the Order of the Temple.

Aleppo — city in North West Syria besieged by the Crusaders in 1118 and 1124.

Alexius — five men bearing this name have been denoted emperor of the east in Constantinople from 1048 to 1204 — all had dealings with the Crusaders.

Antioch (2) — early home of Christianity — after the fall of Jerusalem it became the metropolis of Christianity.

Apollo (7) — mythological Greek and Roman god — later identified with Helios the sun god.

Arnold de Troye — 8th Grand Master of Ancient Templars (1180-85).

Ascalon (8), Askelon (1) — the key to southwest Palestine during the Crusades — taken by the Crusaders after six months siege in 1153.

Atheistan — grandson of Aldred the Great — patron of Masonry.

Auvergne — one of the eight languages into which the Order of Malta was divided.

Baldwin (4) — name of any of the five kings of Jerusalem from 1100 to 1186.

Baldwin II — in command at the siege of Aleppo — king of Jerusalem (1118-1131).

Baldwyn — the nine French Knights who formed the Order of the Temple in 1118 were followers of this man.

Bayard (3) — chivalry, free of fantastic extravagance, is perfectly mirrored in this man's character.

Beaucenant (2), Beauseant (4) — the ancient battle flag of the ancient Templars.

Bethany (8) — village on the eastern slope of the Mt. of Olives.

Bethel (4) — Abraham pitched his tent here and built an altar, here Jacob had his vision and the Ark of the Covenant was once found here.

Bethlehem (10) — city in Palestine, the birthplace of Jesus.

Bethlehem-Crusader — (see Bethlehem and Crusader).

Boenarges — “sons of Thunder” — applied to James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

Calvary (15), Mount Calvary (1), Mt. Calvary (3) and Mt. of the Holy Cross (1) — the hill where Jesus was crucified.

Charles Martel — grandfather of Charlemagne, defeated Moslems at Tours in 732 A.D., checking their invasion of Europe.

Chevalier — a Knight.

Coeur de Leon (2), Cœur de Lion (10), Couer de Leon (1) — “heart of a lion” — refers to King Richard of England who conquered Acre in 1191.

Constantine (6) — Roman emperor who saw a vision in the heavens, “In Hoc Signo Vinces” before the battle of Saxa Rubra in 312.

Coronal — a crown.

Crusade (8) — a journey to free the Holy Land from the Saracen.

Crusader (7) — one who participated in a Crusade.

Cyprus (3) — the second sojourn of the Order of Malta in 1287.

Cyrene (16), St. Simon of Cyrene (1) — memorable for Simon of Cyrene who was compelled to bear our Saviour's Cross.

Sir Knight Sumner resides at 12-27 Jerome Place, Fairlawn, New Jersey 07410. The conclusion of this article will be presented in next month's KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE.
BLACK JACK PERSHING

by

C. L. Rothwell

One of the greatest soldiers in our history, the only General of the Armies of the United States, did not want to be a soldier. He wanted to be a lawyer. In the end he became both.

John Joseph Pershing was born September 13, 1860, near Laclede, Linn County, Missouri, the first of the nine children of John Fletcher and Ann Thompson Pershing. His parents planned for him to study law and saved for his education but the Panic of 1873 ruined their plans. He earned a certificate to teach at 18 and taught two years at Prairie Mound, then went to Kirsville Normal School for two spring terms. He taught at Prairie Mound another year, reading Blackstone in his spare time.

When he was 22 he heard of an opening for West Point and took the test. He had no desire to be a soldier and looked to West Point as a free education, planning to resign upon graduation. He won the appointment.

At West Point Pershing’s scholarship was “moderate” and he received regular demerits for tardiness but was elected class president at the end of his first year. Altho he stood 17th in discipline he was named the most soldierly by instructors and classmates, thus was senior cadet officer each year.

When he graduated in the class of 1886 there was little hope of promotion. The West Pointers who saw service in the Civil War had received rapid promotions and all the high officerships were filled with relatively young men, not old enough to resign or retire. He selected the cavalry and was sent to Ft. Bayard, New Mexico.

Pershing got along well with his superiors because of his “scrupulous conformity to military forms” and with the Indians. He served in the Black Hills, 1890-91, then was sent to the University of Nebraska as Professor of Military Science and Tactics and Commandant of Cadets. Student interest in becoming a cadet was low. Due to shortage of instructors he also taught math. In his “spare time” he took the law course.

During his tenure Nebraska became the “second best corps of cadets in the United States, the first being the Corps at West Point.” Pershing graduated high in the law school and was admitted to the bar. At 35, however, he was still a 2nd Lieutenant and had little prospect of promotion. Friends urged him to quit and practice law but he chose to remain in the Army.

Pershing was made a Mason December 22, 1888, in Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln, Nebraska. He was Exalted in Lincoln Chapter No. 6 March 28, 1894, and Knighted in Mt. Moriah Commandery No. 4, Lincoln, on December 3, 1894.

Sir Knight Pershing was sent to Ft. Assiniboin, Montana, with the Tenth Calvary, a Negro regiment. General Nelson A. Miles, his old commander in New Mexico, made Pershing his acting aide in the winter of 1897 — and thus he became a 1st Lieutenant at the age of 37.

Miles sent Pershing to New York to report on a military tournament at Madison Square Garden. There he met Police Commissioner Brother Theodore Roosevelt and they exchanged tales of the West.

Pershing was an instructor of tactics at West Point when threats of war with Spain spread. Instructors were not allowed to leave West Point. In anger, Pershing obtained a leave of absence and went to Washington where he told the Secretary of War he could be of more use on the line. The order was relaxed, partially out of fear of what Roosevelt
might say if he found Pershing locked in at West Point.

With his Tenth Calvary, Sir Knight Pershing set out for Cuba to fight beside Colonel and Sir Knight Leonard Wood, Lt. Colonel Roosevelt and their Rough Riders. Pershing, too, became a hero in that famous charge up San Juan Hill. He was awarded the silver star for gallantry in action. Major General S. M. B. Young described him as “the coolest man under fire I ever saw.”

The War Department came under fire for the lack of food and medicine supplied our troops. Pershing organized and headed the Bureau of Insular Affairs, selected because of his knowledge of the military and the law. He was made a temporary Major so the Captains would be under him. Pershing didn’t like the desk job and requested a transfer. In 1899 he was sent to the Philippines as a 1st Lieutenant. In 1901 the Army expanded and, at 41, he made Captain.

Back in Washington, the 44 year old Pershing met and married Helen Frances Warren, daughter of Wyoming Senator Francis Warren. They sailed for Japan where Pershing was military attache. He also served with the First Japanese Army in Manchuria.

Brother Roosevelt, now President, had not given up his attempts to make Pershing a Brigadier General. Now it helped that his father-in-law was chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. At 46 he became a General. He was sent briefly to the Presidio in San Francisco, then on to Ft. McKinley in the Philippines. Two years later he returned home by way of a special mission to Europe where he toured much of the land he would later lead troops over.

The Pershings had four children: Helen, Anne, Warren and Mary. In 1914 they settled down at the Presidio. Then he was ordered to El Paso to patrol the Mexican border. Uncertain as to how long the emergency would last, Mrs. Pershing and the children remained at the Presidio. On August 27, 1915, the Presidio burnt. Mrs. Pershing and the girls were killed. Six-year-old Warren survived.

Pershing was sent to Mexico in the spring of 1916 with 12,000 troops. His job was to stop the raids of Pancho Villa but he was not allowed to capture him for diplomatic reasons. One week after the Germans declared unrestricted submarine warfare Pershing and his troops marched home.

A vacancy occurred and Pershing made Major General. He was stationed at San Antonio in command of the Southern Department.

On May 7, 1917, Sir Knight Pershing was ordered to report to the Secretary of War. The government needed a commander for the American Expeditionary Forces. The only two men who seemed qualified were Sir Knights Leonard Wood and John Pershing. Wood had received a head injury in the Philippines so his health was in question. (The injury eventually led to his death.) His popularity and the belief he would use the appointment as the road to the Presidency were also against Wood. Thus General Pershing became Commander-in-Chief of the AEF. He chose Major James G. Harbord (Council Grove Lodge No. 36, Kansas) as his Chief of Staff. Pershing sailed for France with the pioneer AEF – all 187 of them!

Remembering the Cuban campaign and the poor treatment of the wounded, Pershing saw to it that doctors and ambulances went onto the field of battle. Pershing wanted 1,000,000 men in France. By October 1917 American soldiers had begun to “dribble” in, hardly the army Pershing had in mind. America was slow in mobilizing and the troops spent the winter of 1917-18 in the cold of Lorraine, often short of supplies. But Pershing continued to drill the men, instilling discipline to the fine points. There would be no slack in the rules, even if they were drilling in the mud. The soldiers of other nations were not used to such discipline and many Americans weren’t happy with his methods either but, while other soldiers rebelled or grew lazy, the Americans stayed on their toes.

Pershing was criticized for refusing to merge the Americans with the → → →
British or French troops. He cited cultural, language and basic goal differences and held his ground. This disagreement over the merging of the armies lasted throughout the war, with Pershing and Marshal Foch frequently coming to strong words over it. Pershing, however, was not alone. Major General John A. LeJeune, “the greatest leatherneck of them all,” (Overseas Lodge No. 40, now of Providence, Rhode Island) almost resigned over his troubles with non-American troops.

The Americans were to receive 80 divisions in the spring of 1919. Pershing could not wait. In the summer of 1918 the AEF took Cantigny, went on to Marne and took St. Mihiel by the end of September. The battle of Meuse-Argonne raged from September 20 until the end on November 11. American troops remained to occupy the territory thru the first days of the cease fire.

A grateful Congress named Pershing General of the Armies of the United States on September 3, 1919. Mention was made to him of the many generals whose war victories were stepping stones to the White House but Pershing said, “My country trained me as a soldier. I have had the fortune to lead its army to victory. That is enough.”

Altho he won all the high decorations of the Allies, he wore only his Distinguished Service Medal home. Soon he returned to France as Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission. His job was to see that fitting memorials were set up for those Americans who died in battle. On June 1, 1921, he was named Chief of Staff.

On November 11, 1921, Sir Knight Pershing and President and Sir Knight Harding dedicated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. In August of 1923 Pershing led the procession escorting the body of Harding from the White House to the Capitol.

After the war Pershing organized the Army Band, to this day known as “Pershing’s Own.” He retired on September 13, 1924. In 1930 he received the Scottish Rite Degrees and became an Honorary 33⁰, A.A.S.R., S.J. He wrote the two volume My Experience in the World War in 1931.

On May 2, 1936, Sir Knight Pershing was present at Masonic cornerstone ceremonies for a school in Laclede, Missouri. His father, a member of Cypress Lodge No. 227, Laclede, was President of the Board of Directors of the school at one time.

Pershing received the 50 year medal of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. On February 24, 1942, the Grand Lodge of Missouri certificate of Honorary Membership was presented to Pershing by Missouri Senator and Past Grand Master Sir Knight Harry S. Truman. Pershing was thought by many to be dying at the time but he recovered and, on Easter Sunday 1943, he was present at the Grand Encampment’s Annual Eastern Sunrise Memorial Service at Arlington where he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

He lived to see his son and only surviving child enlist as a Private, ever mindful of avoiding using his name as “pull,” and work his way to Major before the “second war” was over, then return to his chosen civilian career.

General Pershing died July 15, 1948. He was buried at Arlington.

September 1775

It was a quiet month for the colonists. They had sent their last petition for redress to King George and he had refused to hear it. General Gage and his troops occupied Boston. Sporadic fighting broke out here and there as local militia throughout the colonies clashed with British troops, but there were no major battles. Brother George Washington continued to train troops just outside of Boston, preparing them to lay siege to the city and drive the British out.

Sir Knight Paul Revere was busy engraving the currency of the Colony of Massachusetts and overseeing the casting of cannon. Ephraim Kirby, first General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, was serving as a private in the 5th company of the 7th Connecticut regiment.

British troops were still quartered in the colonies and the Coercive Acts were still in effect. Nothing much had changed.
New Bicentennial Coin

The Grand Lodge of Vermont has adopted an official Bicentennial Bronze Coin commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. The observe side of the coin portrays the seal of the Grand Lodge of Vermont. The reverse features the words “Vermont — A way of life for those who care,” and in the center, “The 14th State 1791.” To purchase a commemorative Bronze Coin write to Ralph E. Berry, Clerk-Treasurer, Grand Lodge of Vermont, 1976 Celebration Committee, 12 Locke Terrace, St. Albans, Vermont 05478. The cost of individual coins is $3.60, including mailing. Checks are to be sent to the Grand Lodge of Vermont 1976 Celebration Committee.

Renewal of Vows for Williams’

Sir Knight William H. Davies, Chaplain of Nazarene Commandery No. 99, presided over a renewal of wedding vows in July for Pennsylvania Deputy Grand Commander and Mrs. Warren R. Williams, Jr.

A surprise 25th wedding anniversary celebration at the Williams’ home was planned by Miss Carol Williams, daughter.

Miss Carol Williams, Sir Knight Williams, the Rev. William H. Davies and Mrs. Williams pose at their home following the surprise celebration. (Picture — Paul B. Kerr, P.C., M.D.)

Texas Astro-Arena Show Benefit

Texas Templars will stage the annual Gulf Coast Arabian Charity Horse Show November 7-9 in the new Astro-Arena in Houston. The show will begin at 7 p.m. each evening, with an additional matinee show at 1:30 p.m. November 8 and 9.

Proceeds will benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Last year the Eye Foundation received $23,000 from the receipts and E. Bloomquist, P.G.C., Texas, writes that a total of $65,000 is expected this year.

Tickets are $4.00 for reserved seats and $5.00 for arena box seats. Sir Knight Bloomquist urges everyone to buy a ticket. If it cannot be used, the ticket can be given to a child or senior citizen, or sent to the Texas Committee for distribution. Address: E. Bloomquist, P.O. Box 296, Waco, Texas 76703. Ads for the program are also on sale.

DeMolay and “Senior Citizens”

Lakewood Chapter, Order of DeMolay, Long Beach, California, is celebrating the Bicentennial by publishing a collection of articles prepared by the “senior citizens” themselves. The title — “Long Beach as I Remember It.” The book, expected to be published in January, will range from the big earthquake to the price of land before the oil boom.

The Robert the Bruce

The Boiler Room of the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, was the July 26 setting, at 12 o’clock noon, of the Robert the Bruce Society of the Royal Order of Scotland. President is Sir Paul O. Googer; Sir George H. Himes, Sir Robert L. Karnes and Sir Melvin A. Pixley are Past Presidents. Provincial Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler presented “A Word to Our Candidates.”
Shelby Council Excels

Shelby Council No. 3, of Shelbyville, Indiana, with the highest number of candidates on a percentage basis for the state in 1974, has been awarded a set of handmade officers' aprons.

The award was presented by M.I. Grand Master Floyd Haas, Jr., Grand Council, R. & S.M., of the State of Indiana, to I.M. DeWard E. Theobald, Shelby Council. Presentation was made at the Grand Banquet during the 120th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Indiana at Kokomo.

The aprons were handcrafted by C. G. Lindsay, Kokomo. A birch cabinet finished in walnut was constructed for the aprons by DeWard E. Theobald with the assistance of Lewis A. Surber, Past Master, Farmers Lodge No. 147, and Charles Swinford, a Past Master of the same Lodge.

St. Asaph Conclave Constituted

St. Asaph Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Montgomery, Alabama, was constituted July 31. Ray B. Hartwell, right, Intendant General of the United Imperial Council, Division of Alabama, conducted the ceremonies after Grand Sovereign Hoyt McClendon, K.G.C., right center, obligated William U. Turton, left center, to the office of Grand High Prelate of the United Imperial Council and William W. Buckley, Jr., left, to the office of Grand Sentinel.

Graham Knights Graham

James F. Graham, Grand Commander of California, made Masonic history June 26 when he Knighted his son, Dennis A. Graham, Past Master of Rosemead Lodge No. 702 F. & A.M. in Alhambra No. 48—their home Commandery. The Order of the Temple was exemplified by Past Grand Commanders, Grand Officers and Inspectors, with John B. Nye, Southwestern Department Commander, as Prelate. It was followed by a dinner and open reception honoring the Grand Commander, hosted by H. Floyd Hughes, Commander of Alhambra Commandery; Stewart A. Simpson P.C., Pasadena Commandery No. 31; John B. Nickerson, Commander of Calvary Commandery No. 62, South Pasadena, and Cecil M. Singleton P.C., Commander Foothill Commandery No. 63, Monrovia.

Attending the reception were Mrs. Cordon H. Purdy, Supreme Worthy President, Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant, as well as Grand Officers of the York Rite Bodies and presiding officers of related Masonic organizations.


Elected Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons was Lloyd D. Miller, Kenilworth. The new Grand Master of R. & S.M. is Fred B. Treece, Herrin, Illinois.

Next year’s York Rite Bodies will again meet August 5-8 at Springfield.

M.E. Knight Weir Canadian Grand Master

Most Eminent Knight R. V. Weir, Winnipeg, Manitoba, was elected Supreme Grand Master of the Grand Encampment’s sister jurisdiction, the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, at the 92nd Annual Assembly in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, August 11, 1975.

New Deputy Grand Master is J. Ross Beattie, Sherbrooke, Quebec. Past Supreme Grand Master Charles E. Wells was reelected Grand Chancellor; L. H. Beare, Grand Treasurer; James Acheson, Grand Marshal. Retiring Supreme Grand Master, Mark B. Davis presided. The Grand Master of Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Roy Wilford Riegel, was represented by Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell accompanied by Mrs. Bell and by Grand Recorder and Mrs. Paul C. Rodenhauser. An official report on the sessions will be presented in the October issue by Past Supreme Grand Master F. Carl Ackert, G.C.T.

The Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada was held in Windsor August 7 and 8, preceeding the Sovereign Great Priory with Grand Representative Lee Lockwood, P.G.S., Knight Grand Cross, in attendance to represent Grand Sovereign Hoyt McClendon, K.G.C. Lockwood was created an Honorary Past Grand Sovereign. Other members of the United Grand Imperial Council present were Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauser, K.G.C., Honorary Past Grand Sovereign; G. Wilbur Bell, Grand Orator, and Roger K. Becker, Intendant General.


The Sunday afternoon Church Parade featured the placing of a wreath at the Cenotaph, a ceremony in which Sir Knight Bell joined Sir Knight Davis, then a parade through downtown Windsor for the Church Service.

N. Tracy Walker, Past Grand High Priest, presents $10,000 check to Treasurer Charles F. Davis, left, and President Marvin M. Henrickson, Illinois Knights Templar Home for Aged Infirm at Paxton. Check was relayed by Geoffrey E. Stickler, representing the Almoner’s Fund, Scottish Rite, Sir Knight Charles C. Newman is new Administrator of the Paxton Home.

Pictured above are retiring Grand Master R. & S.M. James M. Waters, Mrs. McDaniel and Grand Commander Forest C. McDaniel.
Visitors to Massachusetts can still visualize the towns, villages and hamlets of the colonial days. Early landmarks have been preserved and this cradle of American Liberty is teeming with historic recollections. Many historic buildings and places clearly reveal the living conditions of the Colonists for nearly a century and a half of British rule.

The King and his Parliament were determined to force the Colonists to pay for their expensive European Wars. These Colonists had long contended against British oppression, asserting their rights as Englishmen and not as vassals.

Soon after George III became King of England it was decided to issue new "Writs of Assistance" which would empower Customs Officers to search any house, though neither the house nor the goods had to be specifically mentioned in the Writs. The people of Massachusetts opposed and questioned the legality of the Writs. The Supreme Court finally consented to a hearing.

The Advocate-General was Brother James Otis. It was his duty to appear in behalf of the government. Otis refused to serve, resigned his lucrative position and appeared for the people against the Writs.

In February 1761, Otis appeared before Governor Hutchinson and five Superior Court Judges. His plea, firm in its eloquence and fearless assertions of the rights of the Colonists, went beyond the question at issue. He dwelt with the more fundamental question of the relations between the Englishmen in America and the King and Parliament.

For five hours Otis hammered away with but one central argument, the classical case of "Freedom and Legality," and maintained that the Writs were against the fundamental principles of English Law; an act against natural equity is void.

Inspired with zeal for the cause of the American Colonists, he added, "Taxation without representation is Tyranny." John Adams, who was a spectator at that hearing later wrote, "Then and there the child of Independence was born." It became the battle cry of the revolution.

In May of that same year Otis was elected a representative from Boston to the Massachusetts General Court and re-elected every year of the active years of his life. He joined the Sons of Liberty, organized by his schoolmate friend Samuel Adams, who earned the title, "Man of the Town Meeting."

Adams first came into wide prominence at the beginning of the Stamp Act from his strenuous opposition to taxation by Parliament. Many of Massachusetts revolutionary documents, including the famous Massachusetts Resolves and circular letters to other Colonies, are from the pen of Adams, including the ringing call for a Congress to meet in New York, sent out by the General Court of Massachusetts in October 1765. The response to this call was inspiring; due to interference by Royal Governors, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia sent no representatives.

These delegates gathered amidst tumult of noise, debate and uncertainty; finally over this tumult rose the voice of Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina shouting, "We must close ranks and stand on common ground of natural and inherent rights; as men and descendants of Englishmen." His words swept on, spelling out the reason for the Congress that needed only this declaration to bring unity. "There ought to be no more New Englanders, there ought to be → → →
no more New Yorkers, no South, no North but all Americans." With this thought in mind, the Congress produced a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances," in which they stated respectfully but firmly that only the Colonies could levy taxes on Colonists.

Samuel Adams was one of the first political leaders to deny the legislative power of Parliament and to advocate separation from the Mother Country. He was one of the most voluminous and influential writers of the time. He had insisted that a Continental Congress be called and served on it throughout all those important years. Adams is considered to have done more than any other one man in the years preceding the War for Independence to mold and direct public opinion both in his community and in the Continental Congress.

He managed the proceedings that led to Griffith Wharf and the Boston Tea Party, where irate townspeople dressed as Indians tossed 342 chests of the hated tea into Boston Harbor in protest of the tea tax.

In retaliation the Port of Boston was closed with the intent to starve them into submission. But great waves of sympathy swept thru other colonies. If a town hesitated to give aid to Boston, it was scorned as a Tory town. From Connecticut and other New England states came sheep, cattle and money. From the Carolinas came rice and money, from Virginia came corn and wheat — all united in their generosity with the admonition to Boston to stand fast and refuse to pay for the destroyed tea.

In 1774 the Provincial Congress assembled at Salem and organized with Brother John Hancock as chairman. It assumed the government of Massachusetts except Boston, where the British Troops were stationed, but took measures to organize militia companies and to prepare resistance by force if necessary. Thruout New England, militia began drilling, purging officers who were Tories and organizing detachments who would respond to immediate calls. They were called "Minutemen." Large quantities of military stores were gathered at Salem and Concord. The executive power was placed in the Committee of Safety, Sir Knight Dr. Joseph Warren and Hancock being prominent members.

Hancock was a member of the Committee who demanded the removal of British soldiers after the Boston Massacre. He shared with Samuel Adams the leadership in all the irregular measures preceding the American Revolution. Although a very wealthy merchant with warehouses and buildings throughout the city, at a meeting called to discuss ways to remove British troops from the city, he stated; "Burn Boston and make John Hancock a beggar, if the public good requires it." Greater loyalty could not be demanded of any man.

George III and the King’s Ministers, determined to punish the Bostonians, passed a series of bills, known to history as the Intolerable Acts, which were designed to change the Massachusetts system of government. By their severity they also convinced many Americans that those who loved freedom could no longer take the King’s part.

The Provincial Congress, which had been in session at Concord, out of reach of Gage, adjourned on April 15 and the Committee of Safety, also in session, adjourned on April 17. Both Adams and Hancock had attended these meetings and were the house guests of Rev. Jonas Clarke at Lexington.

A report was spread that Gage had received orders to arrest Adams and Hancock and send them to England to be tried for treason. General Gage attempted to conceal his plans but Sir Knight Paul Revere’s informers were alert. They discovered a detachment of some 800 troops being trained for a special venture. They also noted the boats of troop transports which had been hauled up on shore for repairs were no longer there.

This information was sent to Dr. Warren who concluded Gage was about to raid Concord. He sent Revere, the official courier of the Committee of Safety, to Lexington on April 16 to warn Adams and Hancock of the serious conditions in Boston. → → →
Revere returned at night thru Charlestown where he and Colonel Conant and some others agreed to show one lantern in the tower of the North Church if the British came by land, or two lanterns if they came by sea. They knew it would be difficult to get over Boston Neck but the short way was by boat to the north shore. On April 18 Revere had retired but, at about 10 o’clock he received a message from Dr. Warren. The British were marching. Warren had dispatched William Dawes to Lexington by the main road thru Brookline. Revere’s two friends were prepared to row him across the river where he found Colonel Conant and a borrowed horse awaiting him. He rode thru Middlesex arousing farms and hamlets on his way to Lexington, where he arrived about midnight.

Hancock invited him inside to await Dawes. After Dawes arrived they started out for Concord. Revere was captured by a small detachment of British, questioned and later released, but his mission was accomplished. The word he had brought to every Middlesex farm had gone on ahead.

Adams and Hancock, escaping arrest, set out immediately for Philadelphia to attend the Second Continental Congress. Many volumes have been written about this episode, but none have so impressed our people as The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. “It was the 18th of April in ’75, hardly a man is now alive, who remembers that famous day and year, and the midnight ride of Paul Revere. And so through the night rode Paul Revere, and so through the night went his cry of alarm, to every Middlesex village and farm, a cry of defiance and not of fear.”

Led by Colonel Francis Smith of the 10th Lincolnhires and Major John Pitcairn of the Royal Marines, the British column pushed on to Lexington. It was a warm night as Pitcairn and his men proceeded down the road past Monroe's Tavern into Lexington. The day was just breaking. As the sun rose they could see two companies of Minutemen in battle orders at the end of Lexington Green.

Warned by Revere, the captain of the Lexington Militia, John Parker, had left his farm and assembled 77 Minutemen shortly after midnight. It was now about five in the morning. They had remained on the alert but in the gray dawn of April 19, 1775, when Captain Parker lined up his little company of Lexington Minutemen, both he and they knew what they were doing. They well knew the consequences of their array of arms across the path of the King’s regulars. They were there to resist tyranny and oppression. They also knew that the first to fall must be martyrs to their cause.

On a tablet in the Town Hall at Lexington, a memorial to those who fell in freedom’s cause on that day, are these words: “They poured out their generous blood like water, before they knew whether it would fertilize a land of freedom or of bondage.”

The alarm had spread and the whole countryside was aroused. When the British arrived at Concord the ammunition and supplies had been removed and hidden throughout the area. From Bedford, Lincoln, Acton and all adjoining villages, Minutemen were joining with Concord. They engaged a British detachment at the old North Bridge.

Defeated in his attempt to capture the supplies, Colonel Smith began his retreat to Charlestown Neck.

As the day progressed men from 24 towns marched to avenge the deaths at Lexington. All along the road from every tree and stone wall they turned Smith’s retreat into a route all the way to the shelter of the guns of the British ships at Charleston.

Victor Hugo once said: “There is no such thing as a little country. The greatness of a people is no more determined by their number, than the greatness of man is determined by his height.”

This is also true of a military engagement; its importance is not considered by the number of men killed or participating; it is its over-all influence on events that follow.

There at Lexington, the “shot was fired that was heard ’round → → →
the world!” It turned the tide of thought, not only in our country, but wherever men sought freedom.

At that time and for centuries previous the world was governed by Kings, Potentates and Tyrants. Where Kings were weak, they were replaced by Tyrants; where Tyrants were weak they were replaced by other Tyrants. As they faced the British Grenadiers but a single awesome thought must have occurred to every Minuteman, “we have fired on the King’s Troops.” Here the divine rights of Kings was challenged and the first shot was fired in a revolution that continues to this day, a revolution not against government but against tyranny in government.

April 19th is rightfully a major secular holiday in Massachusetts. More than 200 years have passed since that eventful day but its importance has increased rather than diminished for it was the start that lead to the adoption of our Declaration and our Constitution which for the first time granted freedom and human benefits under the Christian concept, the concept that the single function and purpose of government is to secure and protect the unalienable God-given rights and sovereignty of each individual as the personal embodiment of an immortal soul.

In two centuries we have advanced to full height as the richest, most powerful nation on earth. We have reached this high plane because our government since its beginning has regarded law as man’s effort to apply moral principles to human affairs.

We are now living in an age of uncertainty, an age when the struggle between freedom and totalitarianism is drawing towards a climax. We now have need of faith as never before in our history, with increased determination to defend our laws, our Constitution and the greatest blessing man has ever had, the American Way of life.

On that day, on Lexington Green, the courage, sacrifice and faith of a few men planted the roots that blossomed into our Constitution and the ideals it supports.

Faith is the vital artery of the soul and when we begin to believe we begin to love. Faith in their cause and love of country was more holy and profound than love of their own lives.

For two centuries our people have reaped the benefits of their sacrifice and faith. Seeing the results of their action has taught us to trust the Creator for all we have not seen.

In these days of confusion there appear among us some whose faith is lost and whose honor has died. Such a man is indeed dead; without the spirit of faith man will have no more history than a beast in the fields.

In those days that tried men’s souls, Captain Parker said: “Stand your ground.”

John Adams once said: “Posterity, you will never know what it cost to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make a good use of it. If you do not; I shall repent it in heaven that I took half the pains to preserve it.”

Sir Knight Horton resides at 3517 Garrison Street, San Diego, California 92106.

‡
For more than fifty years the Knights Templar Educational Foundation has been helping students of all creeds and races to complete their education. A thousand loans are being made each year, totaling over a million dollars.

With inflation rampant, and the cost of an education higher than ever before, there is a real need for help to present day students.

We fully realize that a Knights Templar Educational Loan lacks a great deal of being sufficient to put a student through college. Many times a student almost has it made and needs some additional help in finishing the last few months of his course of study and that is where we can really help.

All Sir Knights should be familiar with the workings of the Educational Foundation but, to refresh your memories, here is a brief resume of what the Foundation can do and how it does it. The Foundation provides financial assistance for vocational, technical or professional training and for undergraduates for their final two years of school and for post-graduate study.

The maximum amount set by the Grand Encampment Educational Foundation Committee is $750.00 per semester for a maximum of four semesters, for a total of $3,000.00. The interest rate is 5% per annum with charges starting after graduation or withdrawal from the educational institution being attended.

Loans are repaid after graduation or withdrawal with the first payment due by the end of the first year. The amount of the payments is 10% to be paid during or at the end of the first year, 20% the second year, 30% the third year and 40% the fourth year, all with interest.

Funds for making these loans are available in almost all of the Divisions or Grand Commanderies and information on how to secure these loans may be obtained by contacting the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery in your state or from Paul C. Rodenhauser, Grand Recorder/Secretary, Knights Templar Educational Foundation, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Knights Templar Educational Committee
Ralph B. Mitchell, Chairman

Deputy of DeMolay Receives Honor

Grover A. Neidig, Mt. Herman Commandery No. 85, Sunbury, Pennsylvania, was the recipient of the Cross of Honor, highest DeMolay award presented to a unit advisor, in July ceremonies. The presentation was made by P. Franklin Hartzel of Milton, Deputy of District No. 32, Order of DeMolay. Neidig serves the August Chapter of Sunbury.

St. Elmo’s 100th

The 100th Anniversary of St. Elmo Commandery No. 15, located in Memphis, will be observed Saturday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Masonic Temple, 272 Court Avenue, Memphis. Sir Knight C. W. DeWees, Jr., is Eminent Commander for the Anniversary year; Past Commander J. C. McCarley serves as Recorder.
Long Beach Salutes Mrs. Purdy

Mrs. Gordon Purdy, Supreme Worthy President, is welcomed at Long Beach, California, June 25, by Mrs. Norman R. Brindle, P.P. No. 39, left, and Mrs. Cloyne Crawford, President L.B. No. 39.

All assemblies in Southern California were represented, including Supreme Officers, Past Supreme Presidents and Supreme Committee Members, among them Mrs. Victor Gallivan, Supreme Second Vice-President, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Mrs. Brindle presented Mrs. Purdy with a $1,000 check for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to be credited to Long Beach Assembly.

Sir Knight Brindle, a few months earlier, had presented $5,000 through Department Commander Nye, for Long Beach Commandery No. 40.

Ted Falk — “Real Americana”

The Bicentennial is the theme of a colorful vehicle seen on the streets and highways of the Yakima Valley, Washington.

The brain-child of Sir Knight Ted Falk, the converted postal truck is a blaze of red, white and blue, with side panels of scenes typical of America — George Washington, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, the Rushmore Memorial, the pioneers, the cowboys, the buffalo hunt and "hamburgers and apple pie." The paintings were done by the Art Department of the West Valley High School.

On the front of the truck Falk displays the Square and Compasses of the Blue Lodge, and the emblem of the Past High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons.

Complete with tape deck and public address system, the vehicle has appeared in local parades and is available at no charge to cities and organizations participating in the Bicentennial celebration.

Sir Knight Falk is a member of Palisades Lodge No. 201 A.F. and A.M., South Dakota; Past High Priest, R.A.M. No. 21, Yakima; Past Commander, Yakima Commandery No. 13; Associate Regent, York Rite Sovereign College, and Treasurer of Yakima Council No. 12, R. & S.M.

Senior DeMolay Heads Grand Commandery

A release from the Nebraska News Letter carries this article:

“At the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska, the Sir Knights elected and installed L. Harold Parker as Grand Commander of Knights Templar. Dad Parker is a Senior DeMolay and was a charter member of Keystone Chapter, Central City, Nebraska.

“We congratulate Dad Parker on his position of leadership. Once a DeMolay, always a DeMolay. Again, DeMolays in Action are always among the top leaders.”
DRAMA–ITS PLACE IN TEMPLARY

by
Wylie B. Wendt
H.P.G.C., K.T.C.H.

The staging of a play or the present- ing of an Order as conferred in a Com- mandery of Knights Templar should have dramatic direction. There is probably no business on earth involving action and progressive accomplishment wherein the art of direction is more essential than in the theatre. And it must be one man direction. Authority as to how a Degree or an Order or a play is to be presented cannot be divided.

While we all know that there are Orders in a Commandery and not Degrees, it is difficult to refer to the work without using the word “Degree.” In Commandery ritualistic work, there should be two types of Directors. One, the Degree Director (my Commandery calls it “Co-ordinator”), has charge of the business of the Degree, of rehearsals attendance, equipment, paraphernalia and such other matters that need attention aside from the actual presentation of the Degree. The other is the Dramatic Director or Director of Work who is responsible for the manner in which the Degree (the Order) is presented. The Director of Work should not be responsible for notifying the East, getting them to rehearsal, seeing that all robes are in condition and that all equipment and props are available. However, in some Commanderies, the two jobs may have to be combined in one person.

The Degree Director, who may be compared to the captain of an athletic team, is responsible for the preparation of the Degree Team for action. He delivers the team for action. He delivers the team to the Director of Work who may be compared to the coach of an athletic team. The Degree Director, upon delivering the team to the Director of work, then becomes a member of the team or sits on the sidelines unless he is a member of the stage crew.

In rehearsals or during the conferring of an Order the worker should not concern himself with the major problem of running the show. That responsibility is up to the Director of Work. But each member of the cast should very definitely and with intelligent absorption pay attention to every minute detail of his own performance. The individual worker should be familiar with the entire Order or play. This does not mean that he has to learn all the lines but, unless he has an overall picture of what is going on and how it all fits together, he cannot by any stretch of the imagination do good and intelligent work.

One important item in conferring an Order is the timing. There should be no delays as this is one of the reasons the work drags along and the Commandery is closed at a late hour, much to the disgust of the members in attendance who want to get home at a reasonable hour.

One of the distressing things in working in a play or conferring an Order is to have performers criticize each other publicly. This should be left to the Director of Work and it should be done diplomatically.

The Degree Director or the Director of Work should not be responsible for the placing of scenery, furniture or equipment. This should be left entirely to the stage crew and again this emphasizes the importance of a well organized and smoothly operating stage crew.
Howard T. Joslyn, P.G.C., New Hampshire, directs attention to a successful Knights Templar Eye Foundation fund-raising campaign conducted by Master Councilor Alan Bunting and the White Mountain Priory. They presented a check during the summer to Sir Knight Francis White, Grand Commander, New Hampshire. Total amounted to $572.00.

Sir Knight Joslyn writes: “These DeMolay boys paid their own expenses to sell candy to earn the money. They express the high ideals that DeMolay teaches. They are the people that give us definite positive feelings toward the young men in this Fraternity.”

The Master Councilor made the presentation. Grand Commander White responded.

... Drama – Its Place In Templar

While we use the expression a “minor part” on the team, there are really no minor parts as all parts are important. A so-called minor part, incorrectly performed, can ruin a good performance.

The conferring of an Order within a Commandery offers wonderful possibilities of impressing the candidate and, after all, that is what we are trying to do, to teach the lesson of the Order and leave a lasting impression on the candidate. It is hoped that all members of the team will consider it an honor to be on the team and will avail themselves of every opportunity to improve the work.

This article first appeared in the March 1969 issue. Sir Knight Wendt resides at 5012 East Manslick Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40219.
Let freedom ring throughout the land
But let it ring with pride,
In mem’ry of our founders who
Made “Trust In God” their guide.
They fought and died with one concern
To build a peaceful land,
That we today might carry on
This nation truly grand.
In all our tumult of today
Across the land and sea,
Our nation is far better off
Than any others be.
With all our faults in government
And many greedy souls,
Let’s count our blessings and be proud
The freedom bell still tolls.

- Erv Strub, Edgerton, Wis.

(Sir Knight Strub has received commendations from various sources, including the White House, for his helping to make the “200th birthday a fitting and memorable occasion.”)
GRAND COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

Sir Knights:

It is hard to believe that one month has already gone by. We have so much to do. Every Commander should be planning his Annual Inspections, as well as a membership program which will produce many Sir Knights.

It is my hope and desire that greater efforts by each of us will be given in securing more members for the York Rite from the ranks of Blue Lodge Masons. The percentage of Chapter, Council and Commandery Masons in Illinois, as compared to the total Blue Lodge Membership, is far too low. We are simply not doing our job. We are not making the contacts which we should make in offering the Masonic light and teachings of the York Rite to our Masonic brethren.

We have viewed our experiences and endeavors from the past. Now we must look onward and plan our goals and objectives for the future. We could all begin by becoming more interested in the Constituent Commanderies. It is the task of each individual Sir Knight to enjoin others to participate in the Knights Templar. Our membership has declined over the years, and it’s time we emphasize more than ever before the importance of “new blood” in our organization.

We need each of the three York Rite Bodies for strength, for energy, for success, and York Rite in this great state of ours will begin to GROW. I am sure what lies ahead will be a bright and promising future for Templary in Illinois.

Courteously,

CHARLES RICHARD NEUMANN
Grand Commander

“Knights Templar Cross of Honor” is awarded each year in our Grand Commandery by the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The award is made only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the Order far and beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member.

The Knights Templar Cross of Honor award for the 1974 Grand Commandery year was awarded to Sir Knight Harry Russell Moss, Past Commander of Palestine Commandery No. 27 at the Grand Commandery Conclave, held Saturday August 2, 1975, in Springfield, Illinois.

The certificate and jewel for this high York Rite Honor was presented by Sir Knight Charles A. Howard, Right Eminent North Central Department Commander, as the Grand Master’s Representative to Illinois (far right), and Sir Knight Forest C. McDaniel, Right Eminent Grand Commander (far left).

HARRY RUSSELL MOSS RECEIVES
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

The meritorious award known as the
MEET YOUR NEWEST GRAND OFFICER

At the 119th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, the voting delegates elected Sir Knight Chester A. Owings to the station of Eminent Grand Warder.

Sir Knight Owings is employed by A.J.F. Industries in St. Louis, Missouri, on the Piggy Back Division. He and his wife Dora presently reside in Alton, Illinois.

An active leader in all branches of Freemasonry, his offices have included: Past Excellent High Priest of Franklin Chapter No. 8; Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Alton Council No. 3; Past Eminent Commander of Belvidere Commandery No. 2, and he is now serving his second term as District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 8th District South.

He is also a member of: Franklin Lodge No. 25; Pathros Tabernacle No. LVIII Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest; Charity Court No. 26 Order of the Amaranth; Ainad Shrine Temple (very active on the Hospital Unit); both Alton and El Kazam Shrine Clubs; and an Honorary member of East St. Louis Commandery No. 81.

1975-76 GRAND OFFICERS

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Frank G. Billmire . . . E. Grand Sword Bearer
P.O. Box 117, East Moline 61244

Chester A. Owings . . . E. Grand Warder
3301 Henrietta, Alton 62002

Henry G. Sass, Jr. . . . . E. Grand Sentinel
534 Lill Street, Barrington 60010

George C. Her bert . . . E. Grand Color Bearer
8239 N. Tripp Avenue, Skokie 60076

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Robert W. Bigley . . . . . Public Relations
2910 Virginia Ave., McHenry 60050

Alfred E. Koch . . . . . K.T. Educational Foundation
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Charles A. Barbar III . . . K.T. Eye Foundation
P.O. Box 534, Pittsfield 62263

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1450 S. Sandpebble Drive, Wheeling 60090

Robert R. Neumann . . . . . G.C. Printing
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OUR LEADERS

by

Justin O. King

Freemasonry, as we know it, is only around 250 years old, a long time in the life of an individual but a brief hour in the life of a race. It is difficult for us to realize how rapidly the Fraternity has grown. Nowadays we have Lodges with six and seven hundred and more members, and many jurisdictions with over 500 Lodges. In our early beginnings, when all the members living under the authority of the First Grand Master could gather under one roof, the Grand Master made it a habit to install the officers of every Lodge.

These early Grand Masters usually left the duties of their office to the deputy, then called the Acting Grand Master. In many, many cases the Grand Master — and this holds true of many Grand Masters in this country — was chosen not for his ability but because of the prestige of his family or because he was a fluent speaker or a man of wealth and leisure or what not.

But Freemasonry had in its makeup something strong, something indescribable, and it grew and grew until it became a world power. For lack of a good name I call it the principle of growth and it is a mighty thing. Within 100 years Masonry became a world power. It played such a part in the liberation and the consolidation of the Italian States that Pope Leo firmly believed it was wholly responsible for the isolation of the Vatican. It was a leaven which worked through the German States to overthrow the Jesuit culture which controlled their lives. It was a strong power in the life of the French people and helped to wrest them loose from the ancient regime. Its influence helped to give constitutional governments, or at least the beginnings of such, for Portugal, Belgium and Spain and to gain self-government for Brazil, Mexico and other Latin countries to the south. We all know it was a leading factor in the beginnings of the United States of America. This principle became a world-shaking power.

All the above seems past tense but this is NOT SO. Its work has scarcely begun. There are still many places where there is a tragic lack of liberty. In the more favored countries there is still, God knows, enough of the spirit of strife, of the law of tooth and fang. There is still enough strength left among the enemies of constitutional government, even among those elected to run our own government, to keep Masonry busy for centuries to come.

In short, Masonry is a world power, a national power, a social influence of incalculable potency. Such a power, as Freemasonry itself is ever teaching to each of its devotees, is something that must be thoroughly understood, sagaciously managed and wisely applied. The energy tied up in the brain and muscle of the builders will wreak havoc if left without direction; there must be a design upon the Trestle Board; there must be a Master to oversee and to direct.

The Grand Master, to a pre-eminent degree, occupies such an office. He is no longer a figurehead, a mere title bearer, to lead an idle parade; no longer a merely amiable personage with grace to propose the toasts at the table. He is a man called to be a statesman, for a statesman is nothing other than a wise leader who understands how to direct and shape the forces at work in society. He must be a social engineer. He must understand the Spirit of the Age. He must know the human world as it is now so that he can know when, how and where to apply the titanic force of which he is the custodian.

Too many times we, without sufficient thought, follow along with the appointments to all the Grand Bodies without questioning the ability of the man — friendship, place or location in the State, convenience or merely the

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September 1975
History in Kansas City

Templars visiting Kansas City during the 53rd Triennial Conclave in August of 1976 might wish to visit several of the historical sites in or near the city.

The Missouri Town of 1855 is a restored village. Trail Town is located on the Old Santa Fe Trail. It features recreational fun of the early days including horseback riding. The Johnson County Historical Museum features displays of early American pioneer life. Wornall House is an authentically restored pre-Civil War home of an early settler. Fort Osage in nearby Sibley, Missouri, was built by Brother William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Civil War battlefields include Loose Park, scene of the Battle of Westport, now a garden spot; Lone Jack, Missouri, with its Civil War cemetery and museum; Lexington, Missouri, with its battlefield hospital and museum.

Four historic spots center on the famous outlaw Jesse James. In Liberty, Missouri, is the Jesse James Bank Museum, site of the first daylight bank robbery. The town also has Mormon historical sites. The 1859 Jail and Museum in Independence has several restored buildings including the jail which once held Frank James. St. Joseph boasts the House Where Jesse James Was Killed, as well as the Pony Express Museum. The Jesse James Farm Home and grave are in Kearney, Missouri.

Many of the above named historical sites are free.

The Working Tools of a Freemason

You wear the Square! Discover then the Truths the Square has brought.
Keep there within your inmost soul this Working Tool which will control each Deed and Word and Thought.
The Square of Virtue — use it there and proudly wear the Mason’s Square.

You wear the Compasses! Then live within the Mystic Chiefe now circumscribed by Law Divine, excluding envy, hatred, sin, including all that’s True.
The Compasses plot well that curve beyond whose bounds no passions swerve.

We work with Compasses and Square
We have, the Gauge and Gavel.
We use the Level, Trowel and Plumb.
The Chisel and the Mallet come with Pick-ax, Crow and Shovel.
Learn well the Labor and the Art and never from the Lights depart.

Now Fraters all! Let us display these Emblems of our Art.
The noble purposes they teach be deeply graven each for each upon each honest heart — Thus best acclaim to God and Man Our Ancient, Holy, Perfect Plan.

C. F. VanOrsdale
1020 Suniland Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870

... Our Leaders

fact an appointment must be made takes charge instead of deep study of the abilities of the appointee. Many times, “He is a good man, he never misses a meeting and he really knows his Ritual” instead of “he’s an experienced executive, a leader with ability, an interested Mason” guide our thoughts.

Just what are the qualifications for leaders in all Masonic Bodies?

You decide — I gotta go study my ritual.

Sir Knight King resides at 536 Elizabeth, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.

“Freemasonry builds its Temples in the hearts of men and among nations.”

Dr. Carl S. Winters
Siloam Commandery No. 54
Oak Park, Illinois
International Lecturer and Speaker
Augmented and Revised *Masonic Americana* for 1976
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